THE

HORTICULTURAL REGISTER,

AND

GARDENER'S MAGAZINE.

JANUARY 1, 1838.

Art. I.— *A Biographical Sketch of the Cammellia Family.*

We have been often surprised in taking up the periodicals of the day, to find so little said of this interesting class of our community. We have but once or twice met with any thing that has given us any account of their *manners*, *character*, or origin, and we have been the more surprised at this, as biographical notices are so much the fashion of the present day, and as all acknowledge they are deserving much attention.

Our acquaintance with these interesting strangers commenced sometime in the year 1831. Previous to this we had been introduced to one of this family, and the impression then made, was of the most flattering kind, and we can now add, that upon a more intimate acquaintance with them, our admiration has only increased.

We understand they are natives of China. At what precise period they came to this country we have not ascertained.

We have heard of large and flourishing colonies planting themselves in various parts of Europe at a very early period, but their arrival in this country is of a more recent date.

It is understood their ancestors cultivated the tea plant to a very great extent, and that their present high standing in society, is attributable to this cause. We know not how this may be, but sure we are, that their descendants have no partiality for the beverage made from this plant, having strictly enlisted themselves under the

cold water banner. Would that this could be said of *all* the foreigners that visit our shores; were this the case we should find the black and painful catalogue of crime upon our court callendar greatly diminished. But to return from our digression. There has been much speculation concerning these strangers. Some have wondered how they could leave their own country, knowing that the government of China was despotic, and that their laws were so strict in regard to the emigration of their subjects, that the violation of it has been punished with death. Others again have been surprised at their wishing to leave the land of their fathers for new and untried scenes, and various hypotheses have been formed in regard to them.

With the desire to gratify our readers we shall give some of the reasons, which, to our mind appear the most conclusive. It is generally admitted I believe, that they belong to the royal family, and that their ancestors once wielded the sceptre upon the throne of China, and indeed there is every thing in their appearance to substantiate this belief. The present Emperor is a descendant of the Tartar race. It would not require a very excursive imagination to conclude that as they did not belong to the present dynasty, some jealousies might have arisen from the fact that they were of that race that once controlled the destinies of that mighty empire, and which was now governed by a foreign power. Again, there might have been those that still retained all their former attachment to the remnant of that noble house which, no doubt, excited the jealousies of the reigning powers and rendered their situation very unpleasant, and would be deemed a sufficient reason for leaving their native country, as others have done before them. Still there are those that have asked why, as they were so pleasantly situated in Europe, they should have thought of coming to this country. To this and similar questions we can only give some of our own conjectures, never having conversed with them upon this subject. We may suppose for instance, that they might have had a predilection in favor of our own republican form of government and its free institutions, and that they would meet with that kindness and attention which *true merit* ever receives from an educated and enlightened community.

Others might have come to the resolution that a friend of ours did, that they would not live in a country where they were obliged to pay for that free and common gift to *all*, the light of heaven. Whether these conjectures will satisfy the curiosity of our readers,

we cannot pretend to say.—But of this we are certain, that they have come among us to adorn and beautify the firesides of our own happy home.

Our narrative, we presume, would be deemed incomplete, especially among the fairer portions of our readers, did we not give some account of their wardrobe, and those that are in the habit of considering that variety in dress, as well as in life, is the very spice of it, may be surprised and disappointed to learn that it consists of a single suit. This we allow, is of the most elegant and delicate texture, consisting of a beautiful dark green brocade or satin. This dress is constantly worn throughout the year, and though this is the general costume of the whole of the family, they are not so fastidious as to require every member to have their dress cut by the same pattern, leaving this to the judgment and good taste of the wearer, only requiring that they all be made of the same material.

They observe a number of gala days, which continue for several months in succession. Upon those occasions you may see them decked in their most beautiful jewels.

These ornaments are reserved particularly for such occasions, and are never seen at any other time. This may be an old tradition of their fathers, the remembrance of which they love to retain, and as they add such dignity to their appearance, we are not surprised they should wish to retain it. It is generally understood that on those days they expect and are much gratified to see any of their friends, and we find their levees attended by some of the most enlightened and elegant part of the community, who express their admiration of them in the most unqualified terms; we have sometimes feared lest that latent spark of vanity, so often accredited to our sex should be aroused from its slumbering at the many and flattering compliments made immediately in their presence. The number and variety of their ornaments are in proportion to the number of their families, every family wearing such jewels as designate to which particular branch they belong, differing in size, color, and brilliancy. For instance, the family of Madam Japonica Blanche are known by the particular kind of pearl they wear. These are of the most brilliant white, and much the largest of any worn; they are arranged with so much taste that they appear to make a part of her lovely self, though the profusion is such that upon any other person they might appear inconsistent with our ideas of the most delicate

taste. She has ever been a great favorite with the ladies, and we are informed that her ornaments have been sought for with great avidity, and purchased at an exorbitant price, to deck the brow of some of our fashionable belles, even after they have been worn by that lady. As for ourselves we scarcely know which of them the most to admire. When we turn our eyes from Madame Blanche in all her dignified elegance, to her beautiful sister, Lady Hume, surrounded by her lovely and interesting family, and observe the faint blush mantle her delicate cheek at the admiring gaze of the multitude, we feel inclined to yield to her the palm of victory, and to exclaim in our admiration of her, no beauty can surpass thine thou lovely one.

Others wear ornaments of different kinds, vieing with each other in beauty, some of the coral kind, others of the cornelian, and differing as far from any thing seen in our jewellers' stores, as a common pebble would from a diamond.

Many other interesting particulars could be mentioned, would time permit, but we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of mentioning one large and interesting family of them residing at Dorchester, in the neighborhood of a friend of ours; this philantrophic gentleman has done much to promote their comfort and happiness, and make them forget that they are strangers in a foreign land. At his own expense he has erected a large and beautiful house, every way suited to their dignity and rank, and surrounded them with other distinguished foreigners, and has had several of their portraits taken by some of the first artists of Europe, in a very expensive style, others in wax, and said to be fine likenesses. For all this kindness and attention they are not insensible, but do all in their power to express their gratitude, and have called one of their fairest daughters after one of his own little loved ones.

One of this family have resided with us for several months, and we can add our testimony to their constant desire to please, and though this has been a child of misfortune, her short history may not be the less interesting. At the time she first visited us, she had two daughters, one quite an infant, the other at a more advanced and intellectual age, and as the powers of her mind began to expand she was the admiration of all who became acquainted with her. The infant lived but a short time, it fell from its mother's arms and survived the injury but a few days. Subsequent to this she and her

only surviving daughter were standing at the window to while away a melancholy hour, by observing the objects as they passed, her foot slipped, and they both fell to the floor. On entering the room we feared they were most seriously injured, but in assisting them to rise we were agreeably surprised to find they had sustained no material injury, and the young lady appeared as fair and beautiful as ever, and the fond mother, in all the pride of maternal affection was watching her expanding beauty with the hope that she would be soon brought out, as the fashionables have it, but whether she received an internal injury in her fall that seriously affected her health, we know not, but just at this interesting period she drooped and died, thus blasting the fond anticipations of all her friends. We can only add, that the mother still remains with us in all the silent dignity of grief. FLORELLA.

ART. II.—*On Laying out Gardens and Ornamental Plantations.*

CHOICE OF TREES FOR ORNAMENTAL AND LANDSCAPE PLANTATIONS.

MUCH art is required in selecting trees for planting ornamental grounds; as parks, lawns, foregrounds to country residences and such ornamental plantations. The planter should in this case duly consider the appearance such plantations will have when growing to maturity; as the design will then have its full effect. Present appearances have, in many cases, but little to do with the future, which is the grand object of landscape gardening.

The first consideration is the nature and quality of the ground to be planted, together with the different aspects and locations; these things must invariably be considered in order that trees which will thrive best may be selected for planting, and have a pleasing appearance. To accomplish this, such *only* should be chosen as are known to thrive in a similar situation and soil. *Native* forest trees will be found, in most cases, to answer the best purpose for the *park* and exposed plantations (with the exception of some few varieties of foreign trees) their natural properties being particularly adapted to this climate; consequently, they always assume a healthy appear-

ance, which is the greatest consideration in landscape scenery; as ornamental trees when in a sickly state, destroy that pleasing effect they are intended to produce.

In selecting trees from a nursery or elsewhere, attention should be paid to choose those that are of a well formed and regular growth, and from a situation where they have had free exposure to the *sun* and *air*: trees being grown too close together are always of a more tender nature than those in exposed situations, and are not so fit for being removed to an exposed place.

If trees are to be selected for planting of a large growth, care must be taken to choose them in such a manner that their present and future place of growth correspond. Trees from different situations are found to have entirely different properties; for instance, the oak, maple, elm, and indeed all kinds of trees where grown in an exposed situation are found to have protecting properties, corresponding to their natural location: their bark is of a thick, coarse nature, their roots are numerous and extend some distance into the ground, their tops and branches thick and spreading; this is natural to trees growing in an exposed situation: on the contrary, those growing in woods or confined places, of the same denomination as the above, have their bark thin, their branches *few* and on the top of the tree, their roots few in number and of a weak, slim nature. These facts should engage the attention of the planter, in order that the removing may be done in such a manner that their present and future soil and situation correspond.

I particularly recommend the planter clearly to investigate this subject, which is perhaps the best method of learning the physiology of plants; natural cases are always the surest guides to perfection. Nothing can be more pleasing to the horticulturist, than to reflect on the beautiful economy of nature, which imparts to the vegetable kingdom different qualities in the same genus of plants placed in different situations. The animal kingdom is in some respects similar, although more limited, which is accounted for, when we consider that they have a sensitive power and motion, and thus seek protection from storms and sudden changes of heat and cold. But the vegetable creation in all its natural locations is stationary, and consequently it has to endure the changes of the elements in its primitive place of growth.

Thus it appears, that trees and vegetables when removed, require

to be placed as much as possible, in the same aspect and in a similar location as they were in their infant state. And it should be the principal object of the arboriculturist to observe this rule as much as possible.

NATURAL HABIT OR FOLIAGE OF TREES.

The natural habit or foliage of trees, (*by which I mean their shape and various colors and shape of leaves and the like,*) requires some consideration, particularly where they are to be planted singly as ornamental *objects* in park scenery or on lawns. The best criterion that I can recommend on the subject is, that the planter should only investigate the habits of such trees that are intended to be planted, and those that are of a large size and exposed so that the sun and air have access to every part of them. Such as are too much crowded together, can never be said to be of correct habit, as will be seen in the oak when growing in confined places in woods and groves as before mentioned; it is then tall and slender, and has but few side branches, but when it is exposed it forms a neat tree of a hemispherical figure; the *Hickory* in open, exposed places forms a very beautiful semi-elliptical shape; the conical form is seen in the *Tulip tree* and the *Button-ball* when exposed: the *Balsam Fir* forms a fine pyramid of living green, and the *Lombardy Poplar* is portrayed as a complete spindle shape. To these many intermediate habits may be seen, as in the elm, ash, walnut, and chestnut, but any person who is interested in this part of ornamental planting having duly investigated the above mentioned, he will at once discover the habit of every tree sufficiently to be master of adapting them to the most suitable places. Practice in this case is the sure guide to perfection. I therefore leave this part of my subject to the consideration of my readers, with the pleasing hope that the will give the subject the attention it demands.

(*To be continued.*)

ART. III.—*On Water and Watering Plants.*

"WATER is one of the most considerable requisites belonging to a garden: if a garden be without it, it brings a certain mortality upon whatsoever is planted. By waterings the great droughts in

summer are allayed, which would infallibly burn up most plants, had we not the help of water to qualify those excessive heats. Besides as to noble seats, the beauty that water will add, in making *Jet d'eaux*, canals and cascades, which are some of the noblest ornaments of a garden."

"Sir Isaac Newton defines water (when pure) to be a very fluid salt; volatile and void of all savour or taste; and it seems to consist of small, hard, porous, spherical particles, of equal diameters, and equal specific gravities; and also that there are between them, spaces so large, and ranged in such a manner, as to be pervious on all sides."

"Their smoothness accounts for their sliding easily over the surfaces of one another."

"Their sphericity keeps them from touching one another in more points than one; and by both these, their friction, in sliding over one another, is rendered the least possible."

"The hardness of them accounts for the incompressibility of water, when it is free from the intermixture of air."

"The porosity of water is so very great, that there is at least forty times as much space as matter in it; for water is nineteen times specifically lighter than gold, and of consequence rarer in the same proportion. But gold will (by pressure) let water pass through its pores; and therefore may be supposed to have (at least) more pores than solid parts.

"Mons. L'Clerk says, there are these things observable in water, which naturalists study to know and account for."

"It is transparent; because as some are of opinion, it consists of flexible particles like ropes, which are not so close as to leave no pores; nor so entangled but that there are right lines enough to transmit the light."

"For since the particles are not joined close together, and are in perpetual motion, the very fine particles of light do easily pass through their right lines, unless the water be very deep, or be put into motion, by some outward cause. Then indeed the transparency of water is very much obstructed, and it looks of a cloudy obscure colour, as it is obvious to sight in a rough sea: For at such a time, the vehement agitation of the water disturbs their pores, and spoils their straightness."

2 "Water is liquid, but capable of being fixed: water seems to

be liquid for the same reason as other bodies are so. For since the particles of it are flexible, like ropes, and leave pores between one another, which are filled with finer matter, when this matter is put into a vehement commotion, the particles are easily tossed about every way: yet when the motion of this restless matter is restrained as it is in winter, then the water congeals into ice; whether this comes of cold only, or there be besides nitrous particles, which fall out of the air at that time, and with their rigidness fix the watery particles.

3. "It may be made hot or cold. The particles of water being as has before been said, ice, is soon dissolved by the motion of the particles of fire: for the particles of fire, getting into the pores of the ice do mightily shake the fine, flexible particles of ice, and restore them to their former motion in a little time.

"But if this water be set in cold air, the fiery particles will quickly vanish, and the water will become cold as before.

4. "Water easily evaporates by the heat of fire or air. This is because its particles are quickly separated, and got into motion; so that the airy particles easily carry those of the water about with them.

5. "It is heavy if compared with air and other bodies, but much heavier than air. It has been shown by various experiments that the gravity of the air, in the place where we live is to that of water, as one to eight hundred, or something more; so that water is about eight hundred times heavier than air. And for this reason, and for no other, a bladder, or other thing filled with air, can hardly be sunk under water; and indeed, to make air sink, there must be a weight added to it, that shall exceed the weight of the water, as much, and something more, than that of the water exceeds that of the air. Hence it comes to pass, that water easily supports wood, and vast ships fraught with the heaviest cargo; for the weight alone will never sink them, unless the goods and the vessel should make up a weight which exceeds that of the water; and as salt water is heavier than fresh, so it bears greater weight.

"Those things which are heavier than water, as stones, metals &c. when they are thrown into it, go straight down to the bottom; and as their weight is greater, by so much the quicker: while other bodies which are the same weight with the water, do neither float on the surface, nor sink quite down, but remain suspended between the top and bottom, as is seen in the carcases of animals.

6. " Water is insipid and without smell. The reason is, because its flexible parts slip gently over the tongue, and are not sharp enough to prick the nerves and affect the taste: but this is to be understood of pure water, void of all kind of salt; such as distilled water is, and next that of rain: for the most wholesome fountain water commonly derives a saltness from the earth; though in this place is not meant medicinal fountain water, the taste of which is more acute, but such water as is usually drank.

" And that it is without smell. The purer any water is the less smell it has; for the reason why the particles do not prick the tongue is likewise the reason why they don't affect the smell; the flexibility and smoothness of water, is such, that they cannot penetrate the olfactory nerves; fountain water has indeed some smell, but then it is a sign that such water is not pure.

7. " Water is subject to putrefy according as the place is where it is kept. Water will grow thick and stinking, by heat and rest, as we find it does in ponds and marshes, and in close vessels. But here it ought to be remembered, that this was what was spoken of before, as such, water is not pure, for unmixed water cannot putrefy. This is proved by distilled water, which may be kept very long without putrefaction.

"Rain water which is caught in clean vessels and presently stopped up close and buried under ground, is kept many years in countries where they want fountains. This shows that the cause of putrefaction is not in the water itself, but in other things that are mingled with it; because pure water, such as is distilled or comes out of the clouds, keeps sweet for a vast while. But then those vessels, in which such water is kept must be so well stopped, that the least fly may not get into them, and they must be made of such stuff as will not corrupt, such as glass or clay.

" But for standing water in ponds or marshes, that is corrupted two ways.

" By the nature of the soil, which often abounds with noisome sulphur, whereby the water is impregnated and comes to smell in warm weather; as it does at Amsterdam, not only in the trenches, but wherever the ground is opened for the foundation of houses. This putrefaction is owing to the soil, and not to the water.

" By the nasty things that are thrown into it, or bodies of insects which die in it; as also by the eggs of flies, which are dropped

about wherever they go, and breed worms. Water is corrupted in wooden vessels, especially at sea, by the sulphureous parts of the wood, and by uncleanly things, as flies, eggs, &c.

" Water penetrates the pores of those bodies, whose pores are wide enough to receive its particles. Thus it enters the pores of sugar and salts, so as to separate and quite dissolve their particles; but it cannot get into the pores of stones, or but a very little way; so that it only wets the surface, without diluting them; hangs on the outside of them because they are rough, and because the extremities of their pores are open a little way. But such bodies when they are wet are soon dried in the air, because the motion of the airy particles, carries off the soft and smooth particles of the water.

" It is observable that if bodies rubbed over with oil or fat be dipt in water, they get very little wet, because the roughness of their surface wherein the water should hang is smoothed and made even by the fat, and the mouths of the pores are closed up, so that there is nothing left for the watery particles to hold by, and therefore they must needs slide off.

" Dr. Cheyne observes, that the quantity of water on this side of our globe does daily decrease; some part thereof being every day turned into animal, metalline, mineral and vegetable substances, which are not easily dissolved again into their component parts; for if you separate a few particles of any fluid, and fasten them into a solid body, or keep them asunder one from another, then they are no more fluid; for a considerable number of such particles are required to produce fluidity.

" Most liquors are formed by the cohesion of particles of different figures, magnitudes, gravities and attractive powers, swimming in pure water, or an aqueous fluid; which seems to be the common basis of all.

" And the only reason why there are so many sorts of water differing from one another by different properties is, that the corpuscles of salts and minerals, with which that element is impregnated, are equally various.

" Wine is only impregnated with particles of grapes, and beer is water impregnated with particles of Barley, &c. All spirits seem water saturated with saline or sulphureous particles.

" And all liquors are more or less fluid, according to the greater or smaller cohesion of the particles, which swim in the aqueous

fluid; and there is scarcely any fluid without this cohesion of particles, not even pure water itself, as will appear from the bubbles that will sometimes stand on the surface of it, as well as on that of spirits and other liquors.

"Water adds much to the growth of bodies, in that it both renders and keeps the active principle fluid; so that they are capable of being conveyed by circulation into the pores.

"The learned Mr. Halley has demonstrated, that if an atom of water be expanded into a shell or bubble, whose diameter shall be ten times as great as before, such an atom would be superficially lighter than air, and will rise so long as that flatus, or warm spirit which at first separated it from the mass of water, shall continue to distend it to the same degree, but when that warmth declines, and the air grows cooler and withal specifically lighter, these vapours will stop at a certain region of the air, or else descend.

"Therefore, if it should be supposed that the whole earth were covered with water, and that the sun should make his diurnal course round it as now he does, he is of opinion, that the air would be impregnated with a certain quantity of aqueous vapours, which it would retain in it, like salts dissolved in water, and that the sun in the day time warming the air, that part of the atmosphere would sustain a greater proportion of vapours (as warm water will hold more salt in it dissolved than cold) which by the absence of the vapours at night would be discharged into dews.

"And in this case he concludes there could not be any diversity of weather other than periodically every year alike; the mixture of all terrestrious, saline, and heterogeneous vapours here being excluded, which he judges to be, when variously compounded and driven by winds, which are the causes of these various seasons, and changes of weather which we now find.

"But instead of supposing an earth covered all over with water, you suppose the sea interspersed about wide and spacious tracts of land, and also divided by high ridges of mountains, such as the Alps, the Appenine, and the Pyrenean in Europe; the Caucausus, the Imaus, and the Taurus in Asia; the mount Atlas of the Moon in Africa; the Andes and Apalatean mountains in America; each of which surpasses the usual height to which the aqueous vapours do of themselves ascend: and on the tops of which the air is so cold and rarified, as to retain but a small portion of these vapours, which are brought hither by the winds.

"Then the vapours thus raised from the sea, and carried by the winds over the low lands to those ridges of mountains, are there compelled by the streams of the air to mount with it up to their tops, where the water presently precipitates, gleeting down by the crannies of the stones; and part of the vapours entering into the caverns of the hills, the waters thereof gathers, as in an alembic in the basons of stones; and these being once full, the overplus water runs down at the lowest place of the bason, and breaking out by the sides of the hills, forms single springs; many of which running down by the vallies or guts, between the ridges of the hills, and after uniting form little rivulets and brooks, and many of these meeting again form large rivers.

"Dr. Woodhouse has made these useful experiments of water following.

"He tells us, that he chose several glass phials, which were all as near as possible of the same shape and bigness; that he put water into every one of them, as much as he thought fit, and took an account of the weight of it, then strained and tied a piece of parchment over the surface of each phial, and made a hole in the middle of it large enough to admit the stem of the plant he designed to set in the phial, without confining and straitening it so as to hinder its growth. This design was to hinder the enclosed water from evaporating or ascending any other way, than only through the plant that was in it.

[To be continued.]

Art. IV.—*Progression of Horticulture in the Vicinity of Boston.*

The winter having now made its appearance, and the ground being frost-bound, in a manner that little can be done out doors, the green-house is almost the only department that can be attended to in Horticulture. In this department, the new year is greeted with perhaps as fine collections of plants as have ever welcomed the lovers of choice plants and flowers.

December 18. The Misses Sumners, Milton. In calling on the above, after a polite invitation, I was most agreeably entertained by

the pretty collection of green-house plants cultivated by them; which have been collected from different sources in this vicinity, and many choice kinds have been obtained from the South. The green-house, which is a small snug concern attached to the dwelling house, contains many choice kinds of green-house plants; and this year a pit has been erected of twenty or thirty feet in length, for the purpose of growing the more hardy kinds of plants, as stock Gilliflower, Daisy, Wall-flower, and the like. In the garden, also, in which they take much interest, are many good kinds of hardy shrubs and herbaceous plants, and indeed every thing relative to floriculture appears to be ardently cherished by them. It is gratifying to see so much interest taken in floriculture by those who have the very best taste to appreciate the real beauty and utility of "Flora's riches." I hope every success will attend their enterprize, and that the pleasing results will cause others to follow their example.

J. D. Williams, Esq. Roxbury. A well constructed green-house, under the management of Mr Edward Burns, gardener; the house is of a fine open construction, partly appropriated to the culture of green-house plants, of which there is a good collection, and partly for vegetables, as lettuce, &c. for culinary purposes. I noticed several fine specimens of Rhododendrons, Roses, and many pretty things, that ere long will have a prepossessing appearance, under the correct treatment of the present management.

Charlestown Vineyard, corner of Eden street. This establishment, now occupied by Mr Thomas Mason, situated on Bunker hill, has long been celebrated for many fine varieties of fruit, and was first established by Mr David Haggerston, principally for the culture of the foreign grape, on trellis out doors, which for a few years answered a pretty good purpose, with diligent culture; however, owing to unpropitious seasons of late years, the culture has proved unsuccessful; and the culture of the grape has been abandoned for that of the plum.* The raspberry and the strawberry, which have been grown to great perfection, and the best kinds have been selected and introduced in the gardens. On the place are

* Mr Mason has been very successful in raising a fine seedling Raspberry, which he calls "The Grape," which is a superior variety from the Red Antwerp and Scarlet Rockingham. The fine specimens shown at the Horticultural Hall this season, have been an ample proof of its quality, and it can be recommended as a first rate bearer.

now extensive vineries; these being four hundred feet in length, of glass houses, principally for the culture of the grape, one of which is a large green-house, well filled with a good collection of green house plants. I noticed several fine flowers of the Double White Camellia, and a number of thrifty plants of different kinds of Myrtles, which, by the by, are as pretty and appropriate evergreen plants as can be fostered in a room or small green-house. To these may be added, an excellent collection of China roses, of which I shall speak more fully when in flower.

The plants are in a healthy, clean state, and it is much to be hoped, that as Mr Mason's whole dependence rests on his profession, he will meet a share of public patronage to reward his expectations.

Mr William Leathe, Cambridgeport, — An amateur in choice flowers, — who very kindly showed me his pretty collection of green-house plants, which are well selected. The Camellias are in fine order, and some pretty specimens of the Double White were in flower; Hume's Blush and the Double Striped, I never recollect to have seen in better perfection, which, by the by, when well striped, is one of the best flowers of the family.

Mr Leathe politely furnished me with the dimensions of his green-house, which is a clever constructed concern, and may, perhaps, be of some utility to those who may be constructing houses for similar purposes. The house is a span roof, the dimensions of which are as follows: the length inside in the clear is 34 by 116 feet; the sides and southeast end is boarded three feet high, on to which is about two feet sashes of glass, and the roof seems to form an angle of about 40°. In the centre of the house is a span staging, about 2 feet 6 inches from the floor, and 5 feet wide, of 5 shelves, four of which are 8 inches wide, bringing the top shelf in the centre of the house, which is 14 inches wide; next to the centre stage are two feet alleys on the sides, and next to them side stages of about 3 feet wide. At the northeast end is the furnace, with a return flue under the stage; to the furnace is also fixed a boiler, with revolving pipes, with hot water, so constructed as to pass through a box, 10 feet long, 2 feet 6 inches in depth, and 3 feet wide, which is filled with sand or soil, for the purpose of forwarding tender plants. The advantage of this house is, that every part is made useful, and the plants can be placed in almost any

position, and may be so placed as that even the most tender can be accommodated, so as to receive their natural temperature and location. E. S.

Art. V. — *On the Cultivation of Asparagus.* By Samuel Pond, of Cambridgeport.

[We recommend to our readers the following communication of Mr Pond, which we are happy to give a place in the Register, as we think his remarks are well calculated to benefit those who are desirous of forming new Asparagus beds, or renewing old ones. While some horticultutist give their attention to one production and make improvement in that particular branch of culture, the interest or fancy of another person leads him to something of a different description Mr Pond has given his attention in a particular manner to the culture of Asparagus, and from the success which has attended his efforts, if we may judge from the productions he has presented to the public from time to time, and which we ourselves have witnessed, should infer that he has been eminently successful in the cultivation of this delicious vegatable.—Ed.]

The cultivation of asparagus, although so general,is, by no means, as well understood as it should be. Like many other vegetables, which have for years been cultivated, and which almost every gardener thinks he already raises to perfection and needs no further information in relation to their growth, it can still be wonderfully improved in its mode of cultivation. The immense quantity which is produced in this vicinity, for the market, and its superiority to that of former years, is a convincing proof, that its cultivation is now much better understood than heretofore and it is to be hoped that it will still continue to be grown of larger size and more excellent quality. In private gardens, in particular some fine specimens have been produced within the last two or three years, and, with little more care and expense, the market gardener may as easily supply his customers with this estimable vegetable in equal perfection. There are several kinds of asparagus some of which have been lately introduced and have not yet become very well known. That which I have grown, and which I have proved to be of most excellent quality as well as of monstrous size is called the giant asparagus. It is as yet but little known, and consequently, not very extensively cultivated. But so superior is it to the old kinds generally grown,

and of which hundreds of plantations now exist, that it must take their place soon. Some cultivators do not like to destroy fruitful beds because the kind is rather inferior; yet I have no doubt but they would be more amply repaid in the end, if they were to make new plantations, and as soon as they came into bearing, entirely destroy the old ones. Its large size and fine appearance together with its tenderness and flavor, recommend it to the notice of every market gardener, who is desirous of any emulation for his productions and to every gentleman and amateur, who is ambitious of supplying his table with the most excellent kind. There has been considerable written upon the culture of asparagus, and there are various opinions respecting the best method of cultivation. But leaving the reader to choose which system he pleases, I proceed to detail the method I have adopted and which I have found to be completely successful. It is difficult to persuade those who have for years continued to grow any kind of plants to tolerable perfection to adopt new modes with the hopes of improving upon the long-trodden path. In the month of April or May, select a spot of ground sufficiently large to plant the number of roots intended. If the plantation is to be large and intended for supplying the market, the ground should be ploughed to a good depth; if for a common kitchen garden it should be trenched to the depth of fourteen inches. Make the surface of the bed level, after this operation is performed, then proceed to mark places to dig the trenches for the roots; they should be two and a half feet apart; stretch a line the whole length of the bed: draw the next two and a half from this, and so on to the whole width. Then proceed to throw out the soil twelve inches wide and twelve inches deep, laying it up in ridges between each trench; after this is done, throw in three or four inches of manure, level the same, and add about one inch of soil on the surface scraped from the sides of the trenches; level this also, and all is ready for planting. There are different opinions respecting the age at which roots should be planted; some gardeners prefer one year old roots, some two, and some even three, when it is desired to have beds ready for cutting as soon as possible set out; but I am doubtful whether much if any thing is gained by this; for my own planting, I always prefer those of two years of age, and rather than set out older ones, I would have those of only one year; select such only as have good fibres and a

fine bold crown. In setting out, place them six inches apart, and lay out the fibres in regular order, and not tumble them together, as is too often done to the great injury of the plants. Much of their future success I attribute to the care given in setting out. When all are planted, cover them with about an inch of soil, and the work is all finished. The plants throughout the summer must be kept clear of weeds and occasionally hoed, and by these operations and the summer rains, the trenches will by October be filled up as level as the bed was before setting out the roots. The practice adopted by most, if not all growers of this vegetable, is to set out the plants in deep trenches, and cover them at once six or eight, and in some instances twelve inches deep. Nothing can be more injurious than this; for a great part of the roots seldom make shoots strong enough to force their way through this depth of soil, and consequently perish or, if they come up they are weak and small and never afterwards attain to any size. It is an old system, and, like that of growing celery, now generally exploded, it should be likewise. In the method I have adopted, the roots have but a slight covering of earth when planted, and the young shoots come forward very fast; as they increase in vigor little more is added, till, by the assistance of the heavy summer rains which wash the soil from the ridges into the trenches they are completely covered. Scarcely a root has ever failed to grow. Upon the approach of cold weather and after the tops have been killed by frost they should be cut down even with the ground and carried off: the bed should then be covered with two o three inches of horse manure, which should remain on until spring, when it must be forked into the surface of the bed.

In doing this be careful not to injure the crowns of the roots. Just before the shoots make their appearance, give the bed a good raking which will destroy the weeds that are starting to grow. It is a bad practice to plant asparagus beds with radishes, lettuces, peppergrass, &c. as they exhaust the goodness of the soil. The first year after planting, a few of the strongest shoots may be cut, but very sparingly, as the roots will be all the better afterwards. Continue to pursue the same system of culture every year, and the roots will rapidly increase in vigor. The soil that asparagus seems most to delight in, is a light and rich one,neither too wet nor too dry; when the soil is shallow the trenches must not be dug so deep as above recommended. The manure I made use of was fresh from the hog-pen, and some

what strawy; but I presume any good manure would answer equally as well. The asparagus is a marine plant, and a light dressing of marsh mud in the fall or spring seems to increase the growth of the plants. I would recommend it when it can be easily obtained. Beds prepared in this manner and yearly attended to will last for a great length of time, and the produce will be of superior quality. When I planted out my bed I preferred plants of one year's growth to older ones; they can be set out with more care, for this kind will, when spread on the bottom of the trench, require the trench to be from ten to twelve inches wide on the bottom, so as to spread your roots each way; I have seen beds set of three year old plants from which enough could not be obtained to pay the setting out. When the roots are so large, it is impossible to set them out; even if they were so good, the old roots decay, and fibres start anew. In the following spring after setting my bed of plants of one year old. I cut grass of a good size; since then I have frequently had six spears of the common length, which would weigh one pound. I have occasionally exhibited specimens from my bed at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's room. SAML. POND.

Cambridgeport, Dec. 25th, 1837.

Art. VI. — *The Forest Treasures of Guiana.* By C. Mackenzie.

From various papers written by Dr Hancock, of Welbeck street, as well as from Mr Schomburgh's journal of his recent expedition into the interior of Guiana, much useful information may be gleaned, respecting the vegetable and woody treasures of those hitherto unexplored regions of South America.

About thirtyfive miles from the mouth of the Essequibo, that magnificent river is only eight miles broad, and both banks become, for the first time, visible. Indeed, here it more resembles a lake, studded with numerous wooded islands, bounded on either hand by a dense and almost impenetrable forest of timber and fruit trees, rich in all the exuberant verdure and wildness of a virgin soil and tropical sun. Ascending the river about one hundred miles, the breadth is no more than about 1,520 yards, here the forest reigns

triumphant; all traces of civilization are left far behind; above, around, there is one dense mass of foliage. Pre-eminently above the other trees towers the majestic Mora, with its dark-leaved branches; the gigantic Mimosa, of the western hemisphere, equal, if not superior, to the British oak, for the construction of shipping; the scarcely less stately, and equally useful Saouari (the *Pekea tuberculosa* of Aublet), which bears a rich and nutritious nut; the Sirwabally, of the family *Laurineæ*, excellent for planking vessels, and resisting the attacks of worms and insects; several species of Wallaba (the *Dimorpha falcata* of Linnæus); *Eperua* of Aublet, and *Pauzeria* of Willdenow; the Cecropia, or trumpet tree; the water Guava (*Psidium Aromaticum*) which replaces the mangrove of the seashore, and yields an aromatic leaf, very useful for the cure of dysentery; and many stately trees, hitherto unknown and undescribed, of which Dr Hancock gives the Indian names of upwards of *fifty!* Here, too, is seen the parasitic wild vine, or bush rope, twisted like a corkscrew round the loftiest trees, intertwined like the strands of a cable, or drooping to the ground and again taking root, and thus, as it were, securely anchoring the parent, or supporting the trunk against the fury of the sweeping blast; likewise the wild fig tree, which is an unusual parasite, occasionally taking root in some of the topmost branches of the Mora, and deriving nourishment from its sap; and this, again overrun by varieties of the climbing vine. The whole mass of luxuriant vegetation is rendered bright and gay, by the brilliant blossoms of the Hayowa, or incense (the *Amyris Ambrosiaca* of Willdenow), which perfumes the forest with its sweet smelling resin, possessing the most valuable medicinal properties, both in its gum, its flowers, and its bark; by the scarlet passion flower, and others of the same species, as *white* as snow; by the Combretum Racemosum, and several species of Bignonia, the most beautiful climbers of our European conservatories, hanging in natural festoons; and by the crimson flowers of the Bignonia Cherere of Aublet, which is conspicuously beautiful here, where all is bright, magnificent, and lovely.

The general wall-like vegetation on each side of the river, is occasionally broken by the inroads of the stream undermining its foundation, and laying prostrate many a lofty tree whose withering trunks occasionally project some distance over the water. A few miles further up, Mr Schomburgh found a large cluster of Lanah

trees (*Maripa*) which yield a beautiful blue dye, with which the Indians are accustomed to paint their faces and dye their clothes. A few miles farther up, and south of the Warapoota Falls, he found the Kamasakata, a tree from fifty to sixty feet high; the Warrakarro, whose seeds resemble the *Abrus;* the Acowri, or bread tree, and several species of the Wallaba. "Above the Rapids of Twasinkie," says the traveller, "we saw sugar canes two inches in diameter, and with stems of seven feet before the branching of the leaves; Coffee growing luxuriantly; and various timber trees whose height and girth surprised me; accustomed as I have long been to the fertility of a tropical climate."

Beyond the Twasinkie mountains, he found among other orchideous plants, one which was entirely new to him; its flowers were an inch and a half in diameter; the petals of a rich purple and velvet-like appearance, the helmet of the same color, and the labellum striated with yellow.

Above the rapid of Cooribooroo, Mr S. landed on the eastern side of a large island, where the first plant he saw on landing, was a Mikania Angulata; and in its vicinity, the famed Mikania Guaco. He had thus an opportunity of comparing the two species—both of which are medicinal. The young leaves of both possess the *bitter* much more than the old ones. The natives call the latter Errawarang, and use a decoction of the leaves in syphilis; but their property as an antidote to the bite of poisonous snakes is not known to the Indians of this part of Guiana. Indeed, the reputation of these leaves as an antidote, is probably fabulous, for the real Guaco of the Indians consists chiefly of different species of *Aristolochia,* and such other bitter and pungent diaphoretic plants and roots. None of these, however, are to be relied on, without previous scarification or excision of the wound. On this important subject to travellers in tropical countries, the reader is referred to a valuable paper by Dr Hancock, in the Journal of the Royal Institution for 1829-30. — *Gardener's Gazette.*

Art. VII. *Review of Hoare's Culture of the Vine.*

[Concluded from our last.)

The 7th chapter commences with the construction of *walls*, for which many kinds of materials are recommended as flint, brick, &c. The different heats attracted by different colors, are also described and commented upon — with the different lights likely to be the best adapted to the purpose of producing good crops. Respecting the construction of walls it requires but little consideration, for certain it is, that a good brick-wall retains every quality requisite to the purpose, and if a coat of whitewash is given, an advantage will be gained by destroying insects and creating a fine healthy air to the vines :—other materials to train grape-vines to, as boarded fences and the like, may be considered under the head of *protection* ; they therefore, require no comment, *only*, that the better they are built the more likely they are to be of benefit.

In continuing the 8th chapter the different modes of propagating the vine are laid down, as by layers, by cuttings and the usual methods so often described and most generally followed with good success if properly attended to ;— this part of the book deserves a careful reading by such persons as are unacquainted with propagating grape-vines ; for the system is so clear and practicable, that a certain success will be the result of adopting it in a faithful manner.

The following chapters comment on the pruning and training vines ; which like the before named are after a system that has been fully described by the best of European writers in a similar manner, and the whole as the Calendrial list and the like is a repetition or a following as it were of other authors. I shall therefore close my *review* with some critical remarks of *comparison* to the disadvantage the system is likely to meet with in this climate, and leave the reader to judge of their correctness or prove them by *experiment*.

In comparing Hoare's system, it will be seen that one of his principal objects is to ripen the wood in the best possible manner; by cutting the vines in the fall, unnailing them and exposing the wood to the winter ; which he considers a material object in their fruitfulness in the ensuing season. The severe winters of this climate will not allow of this process: therefore, the foreign grape has to be pruned in the fall and to be covered with *earth*, or other materials

to protect it from the winter's severity, and the wood being in the ground for a long time it rather becomes soft than more hard, therefore is a disadvantage, saying nothing about the trouble, which will be considerable in taking the vines from the walls of houses and the like places.

The observations on the over bearing of grape vines and the disadvantages therefrom are written in a clear and practical manner which will be found a good criterion either in doors or out, in any country or clime where the grape will flourish. And let me remind the reader that nine times out of ten, this evil is apparent even in the culture of the most hardy kinds of grapes cultivated as the Isabella and native varieties. Nature in this case is at first encouraged by indulgent treatment, and then crippled down by an over burden of fruit which she is incapable to mature by her own agency. The table or scale of the different weight to be allowed according to the certain girt of a vine will be found to be of a great service to the cultivator — and the aspect and manner or utility of protecting the grapes, are subjects which deserve especial 'notice from those who intend to adopt the system.

In closing these remarks I would caution those persons desirous to cultivate the grape out doors or upon open walls, for it is my firm opinion that the system (although in many cases is an excellent one) *will never answer this climate in a general way*,— perhaps in some favorable situations with the most attentive and strict attention good grapes may be obtained in favorable seasons; but then the expense and trouble will be quite equal to the expense of a grape-house which I believe to be the only sure medium of obtaining foreign grapes to any perfection for a series of years, and in this case I should recommend that the spurring system be entered into as soon as possible.

The weekly or calendrial list it must be noticed is nearly a month earlier, than in this climate, therefore it will answer only as a guide in the operation of firing, &c., and to say anything here relative to the difference of climate will be altogether useless.

Should a second edition of the work be called for, which it is most probable it will as the subject is now engaging many persons, I would suggest to the publishers to adapt the work to this climate in a more condensed form by excluding the winter management, cal-

endriel list, &c.— and filling the same space with a practical treatise on the management of the Grape-house or vinery—which would make it one of the best works of the kind in print.

Art. VIII.—*Management of Plants and Flowers in Rooms.*

By Edward Sayers.

The present season is perhaps the most precarious period in the management of choice green-house plants and flowers in rooms and small green-houses; as plants at this time are sheding their leaves and generally in a *dormant* state; therefore, they do not require either too much *heat* or *water*, which in many cases starts the growth of soft wooded plants in a feeble state, as the Geranium, Daphne and the like: on the contrary, if plants are kept too *dry*, which in many cases happens in warm rooms, the leaves drop off, and contract a feeble habit, and the bark shrivels up on the young branches.

The best method and criterion is a medium, namely: the temperature should be, if possible, regular from forty to fifty-five deg.; the soil about the plant should be kept moderately moist, too much water saturates the earth in pots and generally rots the roots; if plants are kept too dry, the roots contract and naturally become weak, and are incapable afterwards of extracting whatever nutriment may be applied in a free manner to nourish them. The best criterion to water plants is to give a little at a time, as the earth dries in the *pot*; such pots as are very moist and saturated, should be dried by working up the top of the pot with a fork, or other instrument. All dead and decaying leaves should be, at all times, taken from the plants as they appear: dead leaves often contain many insects, therefore, should be removed. The plants should also be often examined, and cleansed of any scaly or other insects that appear on the leaves, with a spunge and warm soap suds, made from soft soap. Every opportunity should be taken to admit air of a fine, mild day, and they should be so placed, if possible, as to have the sun in the forenoon and middle part of the day. A semicircular stage, with running castors, is the best, which can be moved, to any part of the room, at pleasure.

At this season of the year plants are much refreshed by adding a little fresh, rich, earth on the top of the pot.

Art. IX — *Call at M. P. Wilder's Green House, Hawthorn Grove, Dorchester.*

In a previous communication, we have dwelt largely upon the magnificent collection of Camellias in possession of the proprietor of this establishment. We thought the arrangement of the house very good, when we visited it last winter; but since that time the Camellia apartment has undergone a material change; the walk removed forward, the stage taken down in consequence of the large size of the plants, and all arranged on a border covered with sand. The appearance of the house and the beauty of the effect is much improved. Much credit is due to Mr J. Donald, the intelligent gardener, for the taste he has displayed in the disposal of the plants, and for their general appearance of health and vigor. The houses or apartments are three in number. The first, or eastern apartment, is devoted to Ericas, Geraniums, Roses, &c. The second, or middle, to Camellias, Acacias, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, &c. The third is the stove where the more tender plants find their congenial climate.

We will first direct our readers to some of the plants in the first section of the house, although in a collection so large, we feel incompetent, without more time than we are able to bestow, to do justice to it, as we have never seen an assemblage of plants so rare and fine; in our opinion it exceeds any other in the country. In this apartment, as well as the others, we found the plants had made a vigorous growth the past year. The collection of Ericas consists of from thirty to forty species, in several hundred plants. Epacris impressa, Crowea saligna, Erica arborea, E. canaliculata, E. multiflora, and E. carnea were in bloom, also several plants of Lechnaultia formosa, with beautiful scarlet flowers, in bloom the whole year, and not commonly met with in the green-house. A fine plant of Prostanthera purpurea, five or six feet high, was just coming into flower; this is entirely new. In this house also are plants of Maraultia, Hersteria, Phyllica pubescens, Dylwinia sp., Beaufortia decussata, Lambertia formosa, three varieties of the Protea, two varieties of Grevillea, Gnidia simplex, two varieties of Calothamnus, Verbena Tweediana (new,) Daviesia corymbosa, several varieties of Diosmas, Polygalas, Podalyrias, &c.

The collection of Geraniaceæ comprises all the new and popular sorts, consisting of about seventyfive varieties. This number will probably be increased by new varieties from seed, as we saw a collection of one hundred and fifty seedling plants, all of which the gardener expects will bloom the coming spring: these have been raised from seed of the best sorts, the flowers of which had been cross impregnated from other fine kinds. Seeds have been obtained of Dennis' Perfection, the plants of which resemble the parent in appearance and habit.

The collection of China, Tea and Noizette roses, comprise seventy or eighty kinds, none of which are yet in bloom. Among the most desirable and new sorts the gardener gave us the names of the following Teas, viz: Triumph Luxemburg, Triumph Bolwiller, Triumph de Arcole, Countess of Albermarle, Hymeneè, Faquir, Lamarque, Moreau, Jaune panacheè, Belladonna, &c.

Of China; Bengal Triumphant, Bourborn Augustin, Lady of the Lake, Moliere, Belle Alliance, Belle Chinoise, Gloria de France and many others.

Of Noisettes; Amie Vibert, Lee, Lafayette, Bourborn, Lady Byron, &c. &c.

We observed with much pleasure, in this apartment, a variety of the popular and much admired flower, the Pansy, in pots; as they are always in bloom, we think they add much interest to a collection. A plant of the Sarracenia purpurea, taken from a meadow, in a pot, exhibited its very singular leaves, and were it not indigenous, would be considered a very desirable addition to the green house on account of its curious structure.

Of the Lemons, Oranges, Bergamias, and Bigaradias, there are more than twenty varieties.

As the Camellia or central house is entered, the whole assemblage of plants is viewed at a single glance, and presents an imposing sight. The whole collection of Camellias consists of nearly one thousand plants, of about three hundred varieties; embracing all the new and rare sorts that could be obtained from England, Germany, and France. The gardener informed us that Mr Wilder was expecting daily, some very remarkable varieties from Belgium, which are thus spoken of: "But of all the Camellias, now most sought after in this country it is Camellia King, and C. Palmer's Perfection; the former I paid, last autumn, twenty-six guineas with

seven leaves, and the latter ten guineas with two leaves. Camellia King has clear white flowers with regular scarlet stripes and points, the centre yellowish, petals undulated, being very full and perfect. C. Palmer's perfection is said to be the most distinguished flower ever imported from China."

But few of the Camellias are at present in bloom; we noticed punctata, fimbriata, concinna, variegata, althæ flora, alba plena, Lady Hume, Mesteri, anemone, flora alba, Parmenteri grandiflora, Press' eclipse, &c.

Of the new and most distinguished Camellias that will bloom this season, for the first time in this country are, Frankfourtensis, Triumphans, Latifolia nova, Sweetiana vera, (English,) delicatissima, picturata, floribunda, Donkelarri, &c. Some of the Camellias are very large. The variety Lady Hume's Blush measures about twelve feet in height. One Double White measures ten feet in height and about fifteen feet in circumference, with several hundred flower buds yet to expand.

Mr Wilder has taken much pains to raise from the seed of some of the choicest varieties, crossed by others of equal value and possessed of different qualities, a numerous race of plants, amounting, we were told, to about two hundred. Some of them are two and a half feet high, with remarkable luxuriant foliage, a leaf of which measured, on one plant, five and a half inches by three, giving promise of some beautiful new variety. One young plant, the seed of which was sown only three months since, had started six inches, apparently possessing great merits: it is from the variety Colvillii impregnated with elegans. We see no reason why a number of fine new varieties may not be expected from these plants, as any which have appeared from foreign countries.

The Camellias predominate in this house, but many other beautiful plants are intermingled. The collection of Rhododendrons, Azpleas, and Magnolias here is very large. Of the Rhododendrons there are from twentyfive to thirty species and varieties many of which are in no other collection and of recent introduction. There are several large plants of R. hybridum, one of which measured ten feet high and about twenty in circumference on which are nearly one hundred flower buds, which when expanded will truly be a magnificent object. The varieties of R. aboreum, are album, roseum, hybridum, pallidum, elegantissimum, incomparabile, superbissimum,

caucausicum, Smithii Russellianum, Cunninghamii, novum, niveum, phenicеum, Keteleeri, Fromontianum, and others. The Rhododendrons showed a vigorous growth and luxuriant foliage: one leaf of the variety Smithii measured 11 1-2 inches by 3. One of the hybrid varieties, var. Nazarethi, with variegated leaves we very much admired. Of Azaleas indica there are twelve varieties: among the new ones are Smithii coccinnea, ignescens, Vandesia, Gillinghami, and Youngii. Of Magnolias, there are more than fifteen varieties: M. conspicua, a large plant eight feet high displayed a number of its clear white fragrant flowers. Of the genus Banksia there are three kinds: Metrosideros seven: Melaleucas nine: Arbutus six: there are also large plants of Clethra, Diosma, &c. Of the Pæonia arborea, (tree pæonia) the collection is very rare and extensive, few of which are in any other in this country: some of them are P. purpurea violacea; P. pleno purpurea, P. lilacina plenissima, P. albida plenissima, P. albida semiplena, P. stellata artropurpurea pleno, P. purpurascens, P. monstrusa alba plenissima. Of the latter variety, the Brothers Baumann, of Bolwilles, France who raised it, remarks: "Endeavor sir, to preserve this, for it will be many years before you will see another that you will so much admire. Since an extraordinary mishap has befallen the propagation of this plant, and we have but one remaining, having given you the better half."

A large collection of Acacias are interspersed with the Camellias and other plants numbering more than thirty species, some of them very large, measuring twelve to fifteen feet in height, with nodding heads, graceful form and diversified foliage giving the whole a light and tasteful appearance. Among them are A. spectabile, pubescens, linearis, virgata, conspicua, Houstoni, decurrens, lanceolata, decurrens, longissima glauca, cabra, platyphyllas, several varieties from the Cape of Good Hope, two from S. America with red flowers, &c. Most of them are budded for flower and will present with the Camellias, Rhododendrons and Azaleas a mass of bloom unrivalled in the country.

In the stove we found a large specimen of Doryanthes excelsa, not yet flowered in America. We have had an account of one of these rare plants which flowered at Edinburg, that produced a spike of more than twenty feet in height, on which were innumerable flowers. Here is a plant of the Strelitzia augusta and several large plants of S. reginæ, Pandanus odoratissimus (screwpine) six feet in

height, Chemerops humilias, Auracaria imbricata (Chili pine) Cycus revoluta, (Sago palm,) Phrinium Zebrinum, a plant with broad striped leaves of much interest. Astrapa Wallichi, Buonapartea elegans, Testudinaria elephantipes (Elephants foot,) Poinsettia pulcherrima, formerly Euphorbia Poinsettia, displaying its splendid scarlet bractes and curious flowers; two large plants of Entilla; the New Zealand cloth plant, Brugsmansia sanguinea: five varieties of Hibiscus sinensis — some of them in flower; four of Justicias; two of Ardisias; three Ficas; the variety elastica is the plant which produces the India rubber; three varieties of the Laurus, viz. L. campbor (Camphor tree,) L. cinnamomum (Cinnamon tree,) L. tomentosum; Coffea Arabica (Coffee tree,) Ginoria caribeum, Pleroma heterophylla, Exostemma caribeum, three varieties Tillandsias. A large plant of Hibiscus splendens, ten feet high attracted our attention;— we were told it was raised from seed obtained from the Cape of Good Hope, which was sown last year We have seen the following description of this plant which we copy from Edwards' Botanical Register. "This I consider the king of all the Australian plants, I have seen it twenty two feet and a half high; the flowers measured nine inches across; they were of the most delicate pink and crimson color and literaliy covered the whole plant." Among the climbers we noticed Ipomea Horsfalli, which had been in flower six weeks, and had a cluster of buds and flowers numbering sixty or seventy; color, sparkling rose with white pistils; the plants has attained the height of seven feet and will probably extend itself over a great surface, and when covered with its rich clusters will be a splendid object. Clianthus puniceus planted outside of the house and brought in and trained up the rafter, has grown six or seven feet from a cutting last spring, and is in bud for flower. Combretium purpureum,another beautiful creeper, has made a growth of twelve feet the present season. Combretium grandiflorum is in the collection, also a plant of Tacsonia pinatistipula another new creeper of the Passion flower family. Of the Cacti, Echinocacti, Cereus, Epiphyllum and Optunia, the collection is most complete. Of the new varieties of Cactus we noticed C.Vaucherii,C. coccinneus,C. Paraguayensis, C. Napoleonsis two unknown species from the W. Indies recently received, one of which is quite a large specimen having been brought home in a large tub with its native soil. A large plant of C. speciosissimus trained to the wall seven feet high. C. Peruvianus, grafted

with C. truncatus and two other species will be a splendid affair when in bloom: the plant is six feet high — C. truncatus grafted on C. triangularis in full bloom, forming a bushy head four feet in circumference made an imposing appearance. Of Echinocacti, three species. Epiphyllum Ackermanii and Cactus speciossimus have been cross-impregnated with each other and both are bearing large capsules of seeds nearly ripe, and as usual, at that time, delightfully fragrant and said to be delicious to the taste.

The collection of Orchideous plants, embraces many choice and rare specimens in a very healthy and flourishing condition, growing mostly in pots of moss and rotten wood. We give the names of a few of the most desirable: Zygopetalous Mackiana, now Eulophia Mackiana; a species of Dendrobium with purple flowers; Oncidium papilio, Oncidium flexaosum, a plant from which Mr Wilder exhibited a branch at the Horticultural Society rooms last season; over ninety fully expanded flowers have been counted upon the plant at one time, and was in flower several weeks. Of the genus Cyprepedium of the same family, are C. insigne, C. venustum, C. spectabile, C. pubescens, and C. calceolas; Bletia, three varieties.

The collection of Amaryllacæ is very extensive, consisting of upwards of one hundred species and varieties, from which have been raised about two hundred seedling plants in various stages of growth.

Of the genus Crinum there are ten species and varieties: plants of C. amobile, C. scabrum, and C. augustum are very large: one variety received from England for C. pedunculata has not yet flowered, but is said to be very fine. The bulb of Brunsvigia Josephina, measures one and a half feet in circumference.

Of the Gladioli, a great variety: of the new sorts are G. Colvilli, G. floribundus, and G. pundibundus: the last named, a superb variety, figured in Paxton's Magazine of Botany. Time would fail us to enumerate all the fine plants in this truly magnificent collection, and we fear we have already trespassed upon the patience of some of our readers, but hope we shall be excused, as having begun to give an account of the place, and having spent some little time in looking at the plants, we thought best to give a full description.

J. B.

Art. X. — *The New Year.*

There are but few subjects that bring to mind more forcibly the changes and events of things than the New Year, which dates down another *item* in our existence, and calls to recollection the past events and prepares the mind for the present. Among the many subjects, nothing is more prominent than *Horticulture*, which revolves and gives new features as the different seasons roll in perpetual progression — each year brings with it something anew and gives the closing scene to the past.

Now the vegetable kingdom is in a dormant repose — the trees of the forest have been disrobed of their annual vesture by the cold chill of the season, and *Pomona* has parted with her golden stores of autumn to enliven the cheerful "fireside" of winter — and all, all, serve to welcome the new year. Still the *landscape* appears cheerless; for the trees of the forest are disrobed, and their bare and naked arms are outstretched to the cold blast of winter. The "*Native Flora*" has hidden her purest *gems* in embryo, beneath the cold vesture of winter's attire: but as the vernal season advances, and *sol* casts his more *genial* beams on the parent earth, then the vegetable kingdom begins its progressive motion and the frozen vines of winter, that have long been inert, flow through every channel, and clothe every plant and tree again in its own natural beauty.

At this time the greenhouse is the only representative of "Flora," for there vegetation is in a continual operation, and the assemblage presents the most pleasing features that are natives of different countries; and contrast the mellow scenes of the more genial climes with the cold, wintry appearance of the present. But many will say "what is the use of flowers," meaning their useful qualities as relates to our domestic concerns; to such we may answer "that flowers are the very *essence* of the fruit and vegeteble," and let them reflect that the fruit which so merrily passes around the board at new year, or that cheers the cold winter nights with the merry smiles of gratitude, were but a short time ago fostered within the gay flowers of the orchard: and can anything form a more charming feature of the season, in the landscape, than a fine apple orchard in flower, which at once enlivens the surrounding scenery and imparts an impression of the real comforts of life?

But to conclude, I must say a few words to, and concerning Horticultural Registers and their patrons. I earnestly hope the coming year will increase the zeal that has so gradually been improving, and so effectually added to the comforts of all classes and denominations of people. Indeed, Horticultural Registers are the principal channels through which the *science* and general improvements flow, from one part to another, they unite as it were, in many cases, the best of feeling among the best advisers of domestic comforts; and have been the means, through their different correspondents, of transfering many useful things that could not have been done so conveniently by any other medium.

I hope, too, the new year will bring new contributors in the list of correspondents, and that some of the *fair* patrons of *Flora* will contribute some pretty things to the Magazine, which would add much to blend that pleasing feature that is always the most enlivening in Horticulture, and give a *zest* for others, to unite in making each new year a new era in Horticulture.

Art. XI.—*Flowers.*

The love of flowers appears to be very generally diffused among all nations. They are the friends of all — the rich and the poor. The prince courts their presence to grace his pleasure grounds. In his domains they bloom in lofty splendor and gorgeous magnificence. They are arranged according to the rules of art, and the prevailing fashion of the times. At one era they were clipped and pruned, and made the most grotesque figures, which only showed how vain for man to endeavor to improve the beauties of Nature. But the absurdity of this was soon seen, and the practice abandoned.

Around the dwelling of the humble cottager flowers bloom in all the wild luxuriance of nature. They are free from all the restraints of art; although they have not the same splendor of hue to boast as those which cover the domains of the prince, yet their beauty is not less. It has been said by travellers that they could distinguish a pure minded and more intelligent family, from the appearance of the house and grounds in this particular. The difference was striking — the house of the more intelligent was surrounded by

flowers — the windows displayed them — vines were twined with care and taste over the dwelling. Another presents a different spectacle! The weeds and briers are allowed to hold their dominion. In short, Solomon's picture of the garden of the sluggard is exactly verified.

The cultivation and study of flowers appears more suited to females than to man. They resemble them in their fragility, beauty and perishable nature. The Mimosa may be likened to a pure-minded and delicate woman, who shrinks even from the breath of contamination; and who, if assailed too rudely by the finger of scorn and reproach, will wither and die from the shock.

Flowers possess, also, a great moral influence. Who is there with feelings, however vitiated, that does not feel refreshed and revived when entering a garden filled with these beautiful creations. To him who leaves a scene of gaiety — a crowded, heated room, — and wanders forth from the scene of art to gaze on the charms of nature, where the breath of these lovely messengers greet him, how soothing their influence. How much softer and better his heart becomes! How many remembrances are called up which before lay dormant in his heart! How humbled, how subdued he feels! All the proud visions of ambition and distinction vanish. He asks himself, if he is indeed the same who a few moments before had been panting and stirring in the ranks of Fashion. Now he wishes never again to be in her presence. He thinks he could live and die in some peaceful, retired spot, surrounded by the flowers which his own hand would cultivate. There he would be happy,

"The world forgetting,
By the world forgot."

It is strange what thoughts come thronging to our minds at the sight of some faded flower which we have preserved. It recalls the friend who plucked it; the words that were spoken; the bush upon which it grew; the home which we have left; the spot rendered sacred by its associations. All these are called up — and by what? A withered flower! One who knew not its story would scatter it to the wind and think not of the tale it could tell to some hearts. It is a connecting link in the chain of memory, and it adds another and another till every circumstance is presented. Flowers are bright spots in life's journey.

"In Eastern lands they talk in flowers,
And they tell in a garland their loves and cares;
Each blossom that blooms in their garden bowers,
On its leaves a mystic language bears."

It is strange that this language should not have been more cultivated. They seem to be a very delicate medium of communicating our thoughts. Censure would not appear to be so harsh when conveyed through a lovely flower. The words of love would flow still more soft and gentle. In this way all our feelings and thoughts might be made known.

"Then gather a wreath from the garden bowers,
And tell of the wish of thy heart in flowers."

Every leaf, every flower, even the smallest and simplest, when examined, lead to thoughts of the Great Creator. If there was nothing else to prove the wisdom and goodness of God, these would do it amply. Could chance form the varieties of leaves which lend so much beauty to our forests? Did chance give the Lily its whiteness, or the Rose its beautiful hue? Who will be so blind as to believe that it did?

These simple and beautiful creations may give us many a lesson. They teach the frailty of human life. The Lily of the Valley, when it meets our eye in some secluded glen, breathes forth a lesson of humility; beauty it possesses and none can surpass it; yet it hides itself from the gaze of the passer-by, as if it were conscious of possessing nothing attractive. Thus all convey to us caution, reproof or example. All answer some wise purpose. Each fulfils its work, and then renders up its brief existence.—*Lady's Book.*

ART. XII.—*List of New and Rare Plants.* Noticed by the Editor of the Floricultural Cabinet in England.

1. ***Begonia Platinifolia.*** (*Plane leaved.*) Begoniaceæ. Monæcia Polyandria. This very large and handsome species was received in 1834 into the Edinburgh botanic garden from Berlin. It is a hothouse plant, growing to six feet high. The leaves are about ten inches across. The flowers are produced in cymes, each blos-

som being two inches or more across, nearly white. *Be onia*, in compliment to M. Begon.

2. *Bolbophyllum Cocoinum.* (*The Cocoa nut Bolbophyllum.*) Orchideæ. Gynandria Monandria. A native of Sierra Leone, and introduced into the country by Messrs Loddiges, with whom it has bloomed, and the cocoa-nut scent is so powerful as strongly to perfume a whole house. The plant has also bloomed at J. Bateman's, Esq. Knypersly, Staffordshire. The blossoms are of a pale flesh color.

3. *Clarkia Rhomboidea.* (*Entire petalled.*) Onagracea. Octandria, Monogynia. Synonym. C. Gauroides. Seeds of this plant were sent from North West America by Mr Douglas, and sown in the London Horticultural Society's Garden where the plant has bloomed. It is an annual, growing about two feet high. The flowers are an inch across, purple, and white near the bottom of each petal, spotted with purple. It much more resembles Clarkia elegans, than C. pulchella. Mr Douglas has left some remarks on another species in California, closely allied to C. rhomboidea, viz. C. unguiculata.

4. *Clematus Florida;* var. *Siebaldi.* (*Siebald's Virgin's Bower.*) Ranunculaceæ. Polyandria Polygynia. This handsome flowering plant is a native of Japan, from whence it was introduced into this country by Dr Siebald. It has been considered a distinct species, from that highly ornamental species, long known in the gardens of this country, viz. Clematis florida; but on a careful comparison, it is found to be a variety of it. The present kind deserves a place in every flower garden, or against a trellis, verandah, or wall. It is a free-growing sort, producing a profusion of blossoms, of considerable beauty. The petals are of a pale cream color, suffused with a rich purple, having the appearance of a dark eyed centre; if the plant be grown on a dry subsoil, and in equal parts of peat and loam, it will flourish freely. It is easily propagated by layers.

5. *Cymbidium Ensifolium;* var. *Estriatum.* (*Sword-leaved streakless var.*) Orchidaceæ. Gynandria Monandria Synonymis, Epidendrum Ensifolium, Limiodorum Ensatum. Cymbidium Striatum. The present plant grows freely in the greenhouse, where it produces a profusion of pretty, fragrant, blossoms. The petals are whitish, sepals greenish white, the labellum is spotted and marked with crimson.

6. *Delphinium Vimineum.* (*Slender upright Larkspur.*) Ranunculaceæ. Polyandria Trigynia. The late Mr Drummond sent seeds of this plant from the Texas to the Glasgow Botanic Garden, where it has bloomed. It is a hardy perennial species growing about a yard high. The stems are slightly branching. The flowers are produced in rich racemes, and are of a bright azure blue color. It deserves a place in every flower garden, being highly ornamental from July to September.

7. *Delphinium Tenuissimum.* (*Short slender Larkspur.*) A hardy annual plant, introduced into this country in 1836, seeds of it were gathered by Dr Sebthorp, near Athens. It has bloomed in the Liverpool Botanic Garden, producing a profusion of flowers and seeds. The plant grows to about a foot high, producing its flowers in loose panicles, they are of a violet blue color.

8. *Dipodium Punctatum.* (*Dotted flowered.*) Orchidaceæ. Gynandria Monandria, Synonym, Dendrobium Punctatum. This terrestrial species of Orchideæ has been found in Van Dieman's Land, as well as in New Holland, but more plentiful in the latter country. Mr Jackson found it there flowering in December. It has bloomed in the collection of Messrs Loddiges's. The stem is of a dark purple color, rising from eighteen inches to two feet high. The flowers are numerously produced on a cylindrical raceme. Each blossom is of a dark purple, spotted with blood color, and are about an inch across, producing a very pretty effect. *Dipodium*, from *dis* two; and *pons podos*, a foot; alluding to the two stalks of the pollen masses.

9. *Epidendrum Coriaceum.* (*Leathery leaved.*) Orchidaceæ. Gynandria Monaydria. Charles Parker, Esq. sent this species from Demerara to the Liverpool Botanic Garden, where it has bloomed. It had been considered by Mr Shepherd to be a variety of E. variegatum but it appears now to be a distinct species; the leaves are more coriaceous, more lanceolate, shorter and less striated and acute; the spotting of the flowers are also very different. The flowers are produced in a spike, and the raceme contains from eight to ten. Each blossom is about an inch across, whitish, beautifully spotted with red. *Epidendrum*, from *epi* upon, and *dendron*, a tree; referring to its native situation.

10. *Habranthust Andersonii* var.; *Texamus.* Amaryllideæ. Hexandria Monogynia. Grows in a native state in Monte Video, and

in Buenos Ayres. The scape is one flower. The flower is an inch and a half across, of a golden yellow color, with the outside of the petals, striped with redish brown. *Habranthus*, from *ubras* delicate, and *anthos*, a flower.

11. *Hosackia Stolonifera.* (*Creeping rooted.*) Leguminosæ. Diadelphia Decandria. The late Mr Douglas sent seeds of this plant from California. It is a hardy herbaceous plant, forming a bush of a yard high, and has much the appearance of a shrub during summer. The flowers are produced in nodding umbels. Each blossom is small greenish, with chocolate colored middles. The plant blooms in June and growing rapidly and bushy, is found to be valuable, has an under shrub, filling up vacancies between shrubs. It increases rapidly by its creeping roots.

Art. XIII.—*Miscellaneous Matters.*

An extraordinary plant was last January discovered in the river Berbice, in South America, by R. M. Schomburghk. It is a new genus, allied to the water lily, and its leaves and flowers are of a prodigious size. It has been named Victoria Regina, in honor of the Queen of England. In his progress up the river he arrived to where the water expanded and formed a currentless basin. An object at a distance attracted his attention, and directing his men to row towards it, he beheld a plant which he describes in the following manner:

"A vegetable wonder? All calamities were forgotten; I felt as a botanist, and felt myself rewarded; a gigantic leaf, from five to six feet in diameter, salvershaped, and with a broad rim, of a light green above, and a vivid crimson below, resting upon the water.—Quite in character with the wonderful leaf was the luxuriant flower, consisting of many hundred petals, passing in alternate tints from pure white to rose and pink. The smooth water was covered with them, and I rowed from one to another, and observed always something new to admire. The leaf on its surface, is of a bright green; in form orbiculate — with this exception — opposite its axis where it is slightly bent in, its diameter measured from five to six feet. Around the margin extended a rim about three to five inches high;

on the inside light green, like the surface of the leaf; on the outside like the leaf's lower part, of a bright crimson. The stem is an inch thick near the calyx, and is studded with sharp elastic prickles about three quarters of an inch in length. The calyx, is four leaved, each upwards of seven inches in length, and three in breadth, at the base; they are thick, white inside, reddish brown and prickly outside. The diameter of the calyx is twelve to thirteen inches; on it rests the magnificent flower, which, when fully developed, covers completely the calyx with its hundred petals. When it first opens, it is white with pink in the middle, which spreads over the whole flower the more it advances in age, and it is generally found the next day of pink color. As if to enhance its beauty it is sweet-scented. Like others of its tribe, possesses a fleshy disc, and petals and stamens, pass gradually into each other, and many petaloid leaves may be observed which have vestiges of an anther. We met them afterwards frequently; and the higher we advanced the more gigantic they became. We measured a leaf which was six feet five inches in diameter, its rim five and a half inches high and the flower across fifteen inches. The flower is much injured by a beetle, Thrincia species, which destroys completely the inner part. We have counted from twenty to thirty in one flower.

"Bring Fruits — Bring Flowers."—Upon the visit of Queen Victoria to Brighton, there was a grand floral display; numerous arches of dahlias and other flowers were formed over the way traversed by the young Queen. About 120,000 persons witnessed her entrance at the imperial palace. The Duke of Norfolk sent ten wagon loads of exotic and other flowers. Such an offering was worthy to be woven into a wreath, of size gigantic, for Britain's Sovereign -- an offering the most fitting that a loyal heart could have devised from gallant cavalier to royal mistress. It is said that John Bull has lost his surliness since the accession of Victoria, and that he is now all "nods, and becks, and wreathed smiles." Be it so or not, our friends over the water have shown their good taste by the way in which respect for their Queen has been demonstrated.

The love of flowers, and of their cultivation, should be encouraged. It is humanizing. They are the poetry of creation — and the heart must be insensible to the sweetest influences of Nature, which does not admire their beauty and variety. Flowers and shade trees are favorable indications of good qualities in the persons of

those in whose houses and gardens, and before whose doors, and on whose farms they are found. The study of Flowers tends to refine and elevate; and we never look upon the simplest of them all, without thinking of the last verse of Good's description of the Daisy, where he introduces thus beautifully a lesson, poetic and moral:

"And flung it unrestrained and free,
O'er hill, and dale, and desert sod,
That man where'er he walked might see
In every step the stamp of God!"

— *Wilkesbarre Advocate.*

GRAPES.— While recurring to the articles of the late exhibition, we may mention a few bunches of grapes left by Dr. Sharpless, of Arch Street. They were of a very delicate class, but we mention them less with regard to their excellence, than to say that they are an additional evidence of the capabilities of every house lot to produce grapes. Dr Sharpless placed the cutting of the vine, from which these grapes were raised, in a little corner, a few feet square, presenting neither sun nor space, for grape vines — but he conducted the vine to the top of his building, three stories high, over which he erected an arbor, upon which the vine having worked to that height was allowed to expand. On the second year after setting out the slip, one or two bunches of grapes were taken from the vine, which had in that time attained such an eminence; and this, the third year, the vine produced upwards of 70 large bunches of fruit. What encouragement is here for any one, and every one to set out a vine. A man at the corner of Pine and Sixth streets, long since conducted a vine to the roof of his house and was thus enabled not only to sit, but to sleep under his vine and to make some excellent wine from its fruit. And anybody may do the same thing, and have as much fruit of the kind as is desired, if they will set out the vine and let it grow, no matter whether the person owns the house he lives in or not. Let every one plant a vine, and the people will move from vine to vine, just as they now go from hydrant to hydrant.—*Philadelphia Gazette.*

QUINCY MARKET.

[Reported for the Horticultural Register.]

APPLES, Winter,	barrel,	2 00 to	2 50
Dried,	lb.	5 1-2	6½
BEETS,	bushel		67
BEANS, White	do.	2 00	2 25
BROCOLI,	head	12	25
CABBAGES,	dozen	50	75
CAULIFLOWERS,	head	12	25
CARROTS,	bushel		67
CELERY,	root	6	12
CRANBERRIES,	bushel,	2 00	2 25
GRAPES,	pound	75	1 00
HORSE RADISH,	pound		10
LEMONS,	box	3 00	3 50
NUTS, Almonds, (Soft shelled)	pound	7	8
(Hard)	do.	4	5
Filberts	do.	3 3-4	4
English Walnuts	do.	5	7
Castana,	do.	3	4
Pea Nuts,	bushel	1 25	1 50
Shagbarks,	do.	2 00	2 25
Chestnuts,	do.	5 00	6 00
ORANGES, (Havana,)	hund.	3 00	3 50
ONIONS,	bushel	1 00	1 25
POTATOES,	do.	50	
PEARS,	peck,	67	
PICKLES,	gallon	25	
SWEET POTATOES,	bushel	1 50	
SQUASHES, Crookneck,	pound	2	3
TURNIPS,	bushel		50

Boston, Jan. 2, 1838.